

**Listing of Claims**

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating endothelial injury in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment,

wherein said endothelial injury is caused by mechanical damage, ~~exposure to radiation~~, inflammation[,], or heart disease ~~or cancer~~.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by mechanical damage.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by inflammation.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by heart disease.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, wherein said erythropoietin is administered ~~intravenously~~ intravenously.

23-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of treating endothelial injury in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment,

wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin reduces or prevents the suppression of endothelial growth associated with endothelial injury caused by mechanical damage, ~~exposure to radiation, exposure to cisplatin,~~ inflammation [[,] or heart disease ~~or cancer~~.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of treating endothelial injury in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment,

wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin increases the numbers of viable endothelial cells following endothelial injury caused by mechanical damage, ~~exposure to radiation, exposure to cisplatin,~~ inflammation [[,] or heart disease ~~or cancer~~.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein said erythropoietin is administered in an amount of from about 100 Units per kilogram to about 200 Units per kilogram.

34-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31 [[35]], wherein said erythropoietin is administered ~~intravenously~~ intravenously.